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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/741,680	12/15/2000	Vipin Samar	OR00-14001	6541
22835	7590	12/08/2003	EXAMINER	
PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP 508 SECOND STREET SUITE 201 DAVIS, CA 95616			NGUYEN, CAM LINH T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2171	

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/741,680		Applicant(s) SAMAR, VIPIN	
	Examiner Cam-Linh T. Nguyen		Art Unit 2171	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2003.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 – 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneider et al (U.S. 6,105,027) in view of Ross et al (U.S. 6,643,648).

♦ As per claim 1, 9, 17,

Schneider discloses a system for control access data in a database comprising:

- A requestor or user is requesting access to data in database (See Fig. 1). The requestor can be any type of user. It can be a database administrator, an owner of the file, or a user with access right (Col. 10 line 7 – 9).
- "The requesting access to data" See col. 2 line 11 - 12
- "Determining if the object is a sensitive object that is associated with security functions". Schneider teaches that in order to access to the object, it must determine the sensitivity level of the information (Col. 15 line 38 – 49), and the sensitivity level of a resource is simply a value. The greater the need to protect the information resource, the higher its sensitivity level (Col. 9 line 12 – 16).
- "The object" corresponds to the "resource" in fig. 14 - 15, where the "resource" can include "the resource's sensitive level, a description of the resource,... a

hidden flag which indicates whether Intramap should display the resource to users" (Col. 29 lines 63 – col. 30 lines 5).

- "If the object is not a sensitive object, and if the command is received from a normal database administrator... allowing the administrative function to proceed" See col. 9 line 3 – 11.
- "If the object is a sensitive object, and if the command is received from a normal system administrator, disallowing the administrative function" See col. 9 line 3 – 11. Fig. 6 provides the requirements for access certain type of data (Col. 18 line 1 – col. 19 line 45).

Schneider does not clearly disclose "the sensitive object is encrypted in the database system". However, Ross discloses a secure limited access database system that includes sensitive data. The user or customer does not want the database designer to view or possess the sensitive data (col. 8 lines 55 – 58, Ross). Therefore, Ross discloses a method of encrypt the records at some arbitrarily chosen (col. 7 lines 41 – 50, Ross). Since both inventions, Schneider and Ross, are in the same field, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teaching of Ross into the system of Schneider, because the combination would provide more security in access object in the database (lines 52 – 55, 61 – 64, Ross).

♦ As per claim 2, 10, 18, Schneider discloses:

- "A request to perform an operation" corresponds to "a command to perform an administrative function" See Fig. 19, col. 35 line 49 – 52.

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♦ As per claim 3 - 5, 11 – 13, 19 – 21, Schneider discloses:

Schneider teaches that the user must use the encryption key, which associated with the message, to decrypt the message (Col. 10 line 29 – 37). Therefore, the encryption key is stored along with a table containing the data item.

♦ As per claim 6, 14, 22, Schneider discloses:

- “A sensitive table containing sensitive data in the database system” See Fig. 6.

Fig. 6 is a table used in defining the relationship between sensitivity levels and authentication and encryption techniques. This table represents the requirements for a sensitive user of the database system in order to gain access to sensitive data.

♦ As per claim 7, 15, 23, Schneider discloses:

- “Allowing the security officer to perform the administrative function”. As stated in Col. 13 line 61 – 63, an administrator that has control a certain level of resources tree also controls all lower levels. Therefore, if a “security officer” holding a top secret level as shown in Fig. 6, this officer definitely can access lower level such as public level where object is not a sensitive object.

♦ As per claim 8, 16, 24, Schneider discloses:

Schneider teaches about how to protect a sensitive data stored in the database. Therefore, the database must include a number of sensitive data items, and only specific sensitive users are allowed to access a given data item as shown in Fig. 6.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 - 24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- O'Flaherty et al (U.S. 6,275,824) discloses a system and method for managing data privacy in a database management system.
- Basso, Jr. et al (U.S. 6,131,090) discloses a method and system for providing controlled access to information stored on a portable recording medium.
- Ulf Dahl (U.S. 6,321,201) discloses a data security system for database having multiple encryption levels applicable on a data element value level.
- Ralph F. Conley (U.S. 5,894,521) discloses a system and method for encrypting sensitive information.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam-Linh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305- 1951. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703- 746- 7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703- 305- 3900.

LN


WAYNE AMSBURY
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER